

Serial No. 08/645,073  
Group Art Unit: 2766  
Examiner: Gregory, G

Not all of the claims are amended herein. Nevertheless, for the convenience of the Examiner, all of the pending claims are reproduced below.

NE 1. (TWICE AMENDED, NOT AMENDED HEREIN) A terminal comprising:  
a period reader reading a period stored on a content medium indicating a period of time during which a content on the content medium can be served;  
a present time data generator generating present time data indicating a present time;  
a comparator comparing the period of time with the present time; and  
a server serving the content when said comparator judges that the present time falls within the period of time.

NE 2. (TWICE AMENDED , NOT AMENDED HEREIN) A terminal according to claim 1, further comprising: a single medium, forming the content medium, storing a plurality of locked contents, each locked content provided with a period thereof and wherein the server supplies said terminal with a key for unlocking the content.

NE 3. (TWICE AMENDED, NOT AMENDED HEREIN) A terminal according to claim 1, wherein said server submits a request to a center when the present time falls within the period of time.

NE 4. (TWICE AMENDED, NOT AMENDED HEREIN) A sales system comprising:

a terminal comprising:

a period reader reading a period on a content medium indicating a period of time

during which a content can be served by submitting a request to a center;

a present time generator for generating present time data indicating a present time;

a comparator comparing the period of time with the present time; and

a requestor submitting a request to a center for obtaining use of the content when  
said comparator judges that the present time falls within the period of time; and

the center comprising:

a key supplier supplying said terminal with a

key for unlocking the content when the present time falls within the period of time.

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5. (TWICE AMENDED, NOT AMENDED HEREIN) A sales system according to  
claim 4, wherein said center further comprises a database registered with the period of the  
content.

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6. (TWICE AMENDED, NOT AMENDED HEREIN) A terminal according to  
claim 3, wherein said terminal further comprises second comparator comparing an effective  
period of time with the present time and determining whether the present time is within the  
effective period of time.

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7. (TWICE AMENDED, NOT AMENDED HEREIN) A terminal according to

claim 2, wherein said terminal further comprises:

- a disk for storing the contents; and
- an installer installing a loader for the content.

NE 8. (TWICE AMENDED, NOT AMENDED HEREIN) A sales system according to claim 4, further comprising:

- a period data changer changing period data indicating a serving period of the contents; and
- wherein said terminal further comprising:
  - a second comparator comparing an effective period of time with the present time and determining whether the present time lies within the effective period of time.

NE 9. (THREE TIMES AMENDED, NOT AMENDED HEREIN) A computer readable storage device which contains content, an interval period concerning the content, and a program executed by a computer,

wherein said program:

- reads the period;
- generates present time data indicating a present time;
- compares the period with the present time; and
- judges that the present time data falls within said period or falls outside the period .

NE 10. (THREE TIMES AMENDED, NOT AMENDED HEREIN) A computer readable storage device including both content and an interval period concerning the content, the storage device is accessed by a computer,

wherein said computer:

reads the period;

generates present time data indicating a present time;

compares the period with the present time; and

judges that the present time data falls within the period or falls outside of said period.

NE 11. (TWICE AMENDED, NOT AMENDED HEREIN) A storage device according to claim 9, wherein the period is written as single terminal data indicating starting or ending time interval.

NE 12. (THREE TIMES AMENDED, NOT AMENDED HEREIN) A computer-readable medium encoded with a computer program which performs the following functions:

reads an interval period, stored on a disk, indicating a period of time during which content on the disk can be served;

generates present time data indicating a present time;

compares the period with the present time; and

judges that the present time falls within the period or falls outside of said period.

NE 13. (THREE TIMES AMENDED, NO T AMENDED HEREIN) A terminal comprising:

a reading device which reads an interval period, stored on a content medium, indicating a period of time during which content stored on the content medium can be served;

a clock for indicating a present time;

a comparator which determines if the present time falls within the period of time; and

a server which serves content on the content medium when the comparator determines that the present time falls within the period of time.

NE 14. (ONCE AMENDED, NOT AMENDED HEREIN) A sales system comprising:  
a content medium storing a locked content and an interval period for the locked content;  
a center which provides a key to unlock the locked content when a present time falls within the period;

NE 15. (THREE TIMES AMENDED, NOT AMENDED HEREIN) A method for ascertaining a sales period exists, said method comprising:  
reading an interval period stored on a medium indicating a serving period of time;  
generating present time data indicating a present time; and  
comparing the period stored on the medium with the present time to judge whether said present time falls within the period of time.

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NE 16. (ONCE AMENDED, NOT AMENDED HEREIN) A storage device readable by a computer comprising:

a storer storing a content including an interval period concerning the content and a program executed by the computer, wherein said program:

reads the period;

generates present time data indicating a present time; and

compares the period with the present time;

an accessor accessing said program; and

a server serving the content when the period is compared with the present time and it is determined that the present time falls within said period.

K 17. (TWICE AMENDED) A computer readable storage comprising:  
a content assessable by a user via a computer;  
period data stored with the content indicating an interval period of time during which the content can be accessed by the user;  
a program which causes the computer to refuse access to the content by the user if a present date falls outside of the period of time indicated by the period data; and  
a serving unit to serve the content when said program does not cause the computer to refuse access to the content.

NE 18. (ONCE AMENDED, NOT AMENDED HEREIN) A computer-readable medium

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encoded with a computer program which performs the following functions:

reads a period, stored on a disk, indicating an interval period of time during which a content on the disk can be served;

generates present time data indicating a present time;

compares the period with the present time; and

transforms a result of said comparison to data reflecting that a user is allowed to utilize the content, when the present time falls within the period; and

serves the content when said comparing step determines that said present time falls within said period.

*K<sup>2</sup>*  
19. (TWICE AMENDED) A method for ascertaining a sales period exists, said method comprising:  
reading a period stored on a medium indicating an interval period of time;  
generating present time data indicating a present time;  
comparing the period stored on the medium with the present time to judge whether said present time falls within the period; and  
serving content stored on the medium storing the period to a storage medium when said comparing determines that said present time falls within said period.

Please ADD the following NEW claims 20-25:

*K<sup>3</sup> Sub 16*

20. (NEW) A terminal comprising:

- a period reader reading a period stored on a content medium indicating a period of time during which a content on the content medium released to end users can be served;
- a present time data generator generating present time data indicating a present time;
- a comparator comparing the period of time with the present time; and
- a server serving the content when said comparator judges that the present time falls within the period of time.

21. (NEW) A terminal comprising:

- a period reader reading a period stored on a content medium indicating a period of time during which a content on the content medium can be served;
- a present time data generator generating present time data indicating a present time;
- a comparator comparing the period of time with the present time; and
- a requesting unit requesting a service of the content when said comparator judges that the present time falls within the period of time.

22. (NEW) A computer readable storage device released to end users which contain content, an interval period concerning the content, and a program executed by a computer, wherein said program:

- reads the period;
- generates present time data indicating a present time;



compares the period with the present time; and  
judges that the present time data falls within said period or falls outside the period .

23. (NEW) A storage device readable by a computer comprising:  
a storer storing a content including an interval period concerning the content and a  
program executed by the computer, wherein said program:  
reads the period;  
generates present time data indicating a present time; and  
compares the period with the present time;  
an accessor accessing said program; and  
a requesting unit requesting service of the content when the period is compared  
with the present time and it is determined that the present time falls within said period.

24. (NEW) A computer-readable medium encoded with a computer program which  
performs the following functions:  
reads a period, stored on a disk, indicating an interval period of time during which a  
content on the disk can be served;  
generates present time data indicating a present time;  
compares the period with the present time; and  
transforms a result of said comparison to data reflecting that a user is allowed to utilize the  
content, when the present time falls within the period; and